

December 15, 1999

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The Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 10852

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed FDA legislation requiring medical history interviews of all corneal donors due to concerns over possible transmission of Creutzfeldt Jakob Disease (CJD). Many medical officials do not believe this additional screening will provide any concrete information regarding the donor's medical history of communicable diseases. This extra process will, however, decrease the supply of corneas available for transplant. Each year, thousands of corneas used for sight restoring transplants are retrieved from Medical Examiner's Cases and next-of-kin are not available for interview. This new ruling would eliminate the possibility of using these corneas for transplant and affect thousands of patients in need.

I do not believe that in passing this legislation any transmission of communicable diseases will be prevented. The only noticeable effect will be the decline in the numbers of corneas available to help in restoring vision to many suffering patients.

Your help in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Margaret and Harrison Thom

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Pompano Beach, FL 33064

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